

STRANGER THINGS

#402

VECNA'S CURSE

A plane brings Mike to California - and a dead body brings Hawkins to a halt. Nancy looks for leads. A shaken Eddie tells the gang what he saw.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper turns from the Gate to look into the observation room, looking at Joyce with a sad expression. He knows what needs to be done.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce stares at Hopper through the electricity circle.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper looks at Joyce. He nods, a sad smile on his face.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce looks at Hopper, reluctant. She doesn't want to do it, but she knows she has to.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper's smile gets a little wider, letting Joyce know that it's okay. Tears well in his eyes.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM

Joyce closes her eyes, a tear rolling down her cheek. Moving her head away with her eyes squeezed shut, she pulls on the belt strap and turns the second key.

Cut to black. There's a metallic screeching.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper shields his eyes as the machine starts to break, looking towards the Gate.

Cut to black. There's thrumming.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

The machine starts to break from the back, causing Hopper to run towards the front.

Cut to black.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper runs along the platform as the machine continues to break, trying to reach the end.

Cut to black.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper jumps off the edge of the platform with a grunt just as the machine explodes.

Cut to black. Glass shatters.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

The machine is destroyed, charred and smoking. Electricity crackles as it sparks. The Gate glows an ominous orange. The camera moves over the edge and tilts down, revealing a smaller platform underneath. Debris is littered on the platform, smoke rising from small fires and shrouding the area. The smoke slowly clears as the camera travels downwards, revealing an unconscious Hopper, who the camera slowly zooms in on. Hopper's eyes open, and he breathes heavily.

Cut to black.

MAIN TITLES.

CHAPTER TWO: VECNA'S CURSE.

INT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – MAX'S ROOM – DAY

She sits up in her bed with a gasp, panting.

INT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – KITCHEN – DAY

Max walks up to the sink and opens a cabinet above it, pulling out a pill bottle. She tips a few pills out, cupping her hand under the faucet to fill it with water before taking the pills. Police sirens wail in the distance, making her look in their direction with a slightly concerned look. Dogs bark in the distance.

EXT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – DAY

Max opens the door and steps out, seeing police cars driving through the trailer park before turning down her 'street'. She watches as they pull up outside the Munson trailer, where Wayne sits on the edge of the patio. Susan joins Max on their patio.

SUSAN: Looks like that Munson boy's up to no good again.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – DAY

Police officers step out of their cars, chattering indistinctly. Powell walks up to Wayne, who stands up.

POWELL: Mr. Munson. Where is she?

Wayne gestures towards the front door. He looks rattled.

WAYNE: I just found her there. I swear, I don't even know her name. I never seen her 'fore.

POWELL: Just calm down and stay back.

Powell and Callahan head towards the front door.

EXT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – DAY

Max walks down the front steps and slowly approaches the Munson trailer. A few trailer park residents do the same, but police officers block them off.

MAN: What you boys doing?

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Powell walks inside, followed by Callahan. They stop short in the doorway, staring at Chrissy's mangled body in disbelief as flies buzz in the air.

CALLAHAN: Holy mother of God.

EXT. MUNSON TRAILER – DAY

Max slowly walks towards the Munson trailer, confused and concerned. The men from earlier move off, and the police officers pull out rolls of caution tape from the boots of the cars. Max peers over

the shoulder of one of them, looking through the doorway and catching sight of Chrissy's mangled body.

POLICE OFFICER: Hey!

A hand grabs Max's shoulder and she spins around in fear, finding a police officer behind her.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D): You can't be out here. Get back in side.

Max glances back through the doorway.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D): Back inside.

Max reluctantly turns and runs back to her trailer.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Flies buzz around. A man takes photos of Chrissy's body, looking slightly disgusted. Officers swab fingerprints and rifle through possible evidence with gloves. Powell stands at the phone.

POWELL: Hey, Frank. Chief Powell here. Listen...

Powell turns to look at Chrissy's body.

POWELL (CONT'D): We caught a body over here at the Munson's trailer.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – RADIO ROOM – DAY

An agent listens in on the phone call through headphones.

POWELL (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): I don't even know how to describe it. I've never seen anything like it. Uh, look...

Powell lets out a shaky breath.

POWELL (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): I need you down here ASAP to tell me what the hell I'm looking at, or...or how someone could even do something like this.

EXT. LENORA HILLS AIRPORT – DAY

A plane touches down.

INT. LENORA HILLS AIRPORT – WAITING AREA – DAY

Argyle, Jonathan, Will, and Eleven sit on chairs as they wait for Mike to appear. Argyle and Jonathan don't look thrilled to be there. Will and Eleven both look excited, with Will holding a rolled up canvas.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (ON PA): Flight 623 just landed from Indianapolis and will be arriving at gate two. Flight 623 from Indianapolis at gate two.

Eleven slowly stands up as people start to leave the gate, trying to spot Mike. She spots him in the middle of the crowd, wearing chained sunglasses and a colourful visor. He carries a duffel in one hand and a small bouquet in the other.

ELEVEN: Mike.

Eleven waves.

MIKE: Ah!

Eleven runs up to Mike, chuckling happily. She and Mike share a kiss before hugging.

MIKE (CONT'D): Oh, careful, careful, careful. You're squishing...you're squishing your present.

Eleven lets go of Mike and he hands her the bouquet.

MIKE (CONT'D): It's a gift. I, uh...I handpicked those for you in Hawkins.

Eleven smiles as Mike takes off his sunglasses.

MIKE (CONT'D): I know you like yellow, but now I'm kind of realising that it's too much yellow.

Eleven looks at the gift tag around the stems, which reads 'TO EL. FROM MIKE.' Her smile fades slightly.

MIKE (CONT'D): I know you also like purple, so I got some purple as well. So I kinda did, like, a 70/30 split kinda thing.

Will runs up to them as Jonathan and Argyle follow.

ELEVEN: They're perfect. Thank you.

MIKE: Oh.

Eleven moves off, letting Mike spot Will.

MIKE (CONT'D): Oh!

Will moves to hug Mike but it's an awkward side hug that turns into back pats.

MIKE (CONT'D): Hey. How you doing?

Will doesn't look as excited anymore.

JONATHAN: Hey, Mike.

MIKE: Hey, how you doing?

JONATHAN: Yeah, good, man.

MIKE: Great.

Mike spots the rolled up canvas in Will's hands.

MIKE (CONT'D): Uh, what's that?

WILL: Um, it's nothing. It's just this painting I've been working on.

MIKE: Cool.

Will looks disappointed.

ARGYLE: That's a rad shirt, man. Ocean Pacific?

JONATHAN: Oh, hey, Mike. This is, uh, my friend Argyle.

MIKE: Oh. Hey.

Mike holds his hand out. Argyle wraps Mike in what appears to be a hug, which makes him uncomfortable. What Argyle actually does is check the tag of Mike's shirt.

ARGYLE: Oh no, no, no.

Argyle lets Mike go.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): No, it's a shitty knockoff. Yeah. But don't sweat it. I'll get you the good threads out here.

Mike looks put off.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): I heard a lot about your sister.

Jonathan tenses up as Mike looks at him.

JONATHAN: Uh...

Jonathan clears his throat.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): O-okay. Um, should we go?

ARGYLE: Yeah, this is kinda awkward, man.

MIKE: Yeah, so awkward.

Mike puts his arm around Eleven's shoulder and the pair start walking towards the exit. Will, Jonathan, and Argyle turn to follow them.

ARGYLE: I really thought it was Ocean Pacific.

INT. LENORA HILLS AIRPORT – HALLWAY – DAY

The group walks through the airport, with Mike and Eleven at the front. Mike wheels his suitcase behind him, his arm around Eleven's shoulder. Will is in the middle, looking disappointed in Mike's previous reaction. Jonathan and Argyle walk behind them, looking ready to get out of there.

ELEVEN: I have our whole day planned. First, El Rodeo for burritos.

MIKE: What, really? Burritos for breakfast?

ELEVEN: Yes. Trust me.

MIKE: Yeah, no, I...I trust you. It's just, you know, it's a little weird.

ELEVEN: Then, after burritos, I want to go to Rink-O-Mania.

MIKE: Rink-O-Mania, okay. And w-what's Rink-O-Mania?

ELEVEN: It's the most fun place in Lenora. They have skating and games.

MIKE: Okay, sounds awesome. Are your friends gonna meet us there?

WILL: Friends? What...what friends?

Eleven taps Will's chest with the bouquet in a 'don't blow this for me' type movement.

ELEVEN: You know, Stacy and Angela.

WILL: Angela?

ELEVEN: You'll meet them, I promise. Just not today. I want today to be about me and you.

EXT. LENORA HILLS AIRPORT – TAXI ZONE – DAY

Mike kisses Eleven on the forehead as they walk out of the exit, the group turning and walking off in the direction of wherever their car is parked. They walk past the open boot of a taxi as a man rummages inside. Murray stands up, facing away from the group as he looks around, and the two groups don't see each other. Murray closes the boot and hops into the backseat of the taxi.

INT. TAXI

TAXI DRIVER: Where to?

MURRAY: 4819 Lonzo Way. Let's go. This is life or death. Snap, snap!

TAXI DRIVER: Yes, sir.

The taxi driver turns the meter on and takes off.

EXT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Cars drive past. A few people walk out.

INT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Steve and Robin stack movies on the shelves.

ROBIN: And then Vicki laughed. And it wasn't like a cheap, fake laugh either. It was like...it was like a real, genuine laugh.

STEVE: Of course she laughed, Robin. It's my Muppet joke. It's hilarious.

Steve moves to another shelf. Robin follows.

ROBIN: My point is that Vicki laughed and everything was just like...it was perfect.

STEVE: But?

ROBIN: But I'm having this problem where it's like, I should stop talking. I have said everything I need to say. But then I guess I get nervous, and then the words they...they just keep spilling out...

Steve puts a bunch of DVDs on a trolley and moves towards a shelf at the front of the store.

ROBIN (CONT'D): And it's like my brain is moving faster than my mouth, or...or rather my...my mouth is moving faster than my brain. And it's like I'm digging this hole for myself, and I want to stop digging, I'm trying to stop digging, but I can't.

Robin moves past Steve as she keeps talking. He stops stacking the shelf and just stands there, his arm resting on the top of it.

ROBIN (CONT'D): And I'm doing it right now, aren't I?

Robin turns to look at Steve.

STEVE: Yeah, you are.

Robin sighs and walks backwards until she hits the wall, which she leans on.

ROBIN: Oh, I'm hopeless.

STEVE: Eh.

Steve joins Robin in leaning with their backs against the wall.

STEVE (CONT'D): We both are.

ROBIN: If only we could just, like, combine.

STEVE: Combine?

ROBIN: No, think about it. I know exactly what I want, and I've found the girl of my dreams, but I just can't get the courage to ask her out.

STEVE: Mmm-hmm.

ROBIN: Meanwhile, you go on, like, a million dates. And you have no idea what you want.

STEVE: Mmm-hmm.

ROBIN: So if we just combined, all our problems would be solved.

Steve makes a face as if he's just gotten what she's saying.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Because, I mean, alone, let's face it...

STEVE: We totally suck.

ROBIN: Totally and utterly.

Robin spots something across the store and gasps.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Ooh, I think I found our morning movie.

Robin runs most of the way to the other side of the store and picks up a copy of Doctor Zhivago. She turns around, showing it to Steve.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Doctor Zhivago.

Steve pushes off the wall and starts walking towards Robin, shaking his head.

STEVE: Ugh, you know I don't do double VHS.

ROBIN: But it's about doomed love.

Steve grabs the trolley and pushes it towards Robin.

STEVE: Oh, well, that's relatable.

ROBIN: Precisely.

Robin grabs the second VHS for the movie and moves around the counter, followed by Steve.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Also, Julie Christie is b-b-bonkers hot in this. Like, seriously, the most beautiful creature I have ever seen in my life.

Robin turns the TV on to see a news report. A reporter is on scene in the trailer park, and the Munson trailer can be seen in the background. People are congregated around the area.

REPORTER (ON TV): We're in the Forest Hills trailer park in east Roane County. We don't have a lot of details now, but we can confirm that the body of a Hawkins High student was discovered early this morning. Police have not yet released the victim's name...

STEVE: Holy shit.

REPORTER (ON TV): Although we are told they're currently in the process of notifying the family.

EXT. BENNY'S BURGERS – CAR PARK – DAY

The windows are boarded up. The sign on the roof is aging. Graffiti is on the building. A boy helps a girl out of the store.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – BATHROOM – DAY

Lucas is hunched over the toilet, throwing up. There's a knocking on the door.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – HALLWAY – DAY

Jason stands outside.

JASON: You all right in there, Sinclair?

LUCAS: I'm good.

JASON: First hangover feels like you're gonna split in two but you'll live.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

The toilet can be heard flushing as Jason walks away from the bathroom and into the eating area of Benny's Burgers, which has been turned into a teens hangout after the chef's death. He starts to make a bowl of cereal. Many members of the basketball team are passed out around the room. A few boys watch the news.

REPORTER (ON TV): ...occurred here is sure to touch a nerve across the community of Hawkins, which is still reeling from last year's devastating mall fire. Over 30 innocent...

The TV garbles static.

REPORTER (CONT'D)(ON TV): ...completely blocked off at...

The TV garbles static. One of the boys sighs and gets up, fidgeting with the antennas.

BOY 1: Come on.

BOY 2: Just hit it, man. Yo, just hit it.

BOY 1: Yeah.

REPORTER (ON TV): But whatever has occurred...

The first boy hits the TV a few times.

BOY 1: Piece of shit.

BOY 2: There you go, see.

The first boy moves to sit down as Jason joins them around the TV, eating cereal.

REPORTER (ON TV): ...is newly appointed police chief Calvin Powell, who served as deputy under Chief Hopper.

JASON: What's this? I thought we were watching ThunderCats.

PATRICK: Hawkins student got murdered.

Jason looks at Patrick in shock.

JASON: What?

ANDY: Yeah, it's on every channel.

REPORTER (ON TV): As you can see behind me, Chief Powell and the Hawkins Police Department are actively investigating the scene...

JASON: They say who it is?

PATRICK: No, not yet.

ANDY: Hey, maybe Chrissy didn't stand you up after all.

Andy chuckles.

PATRICK: Hey, don't say that.

Jason's jaw clenches. There's distance sirens, and Jason looks in their direction.

ANDY: Man, it was a joke.

PATRICK: A joke? Come on, someone just died and you're making a joke out of it?

Jason walks towards the front door.

ANDY: It was at the trailer park, so probably some druggy OD'd on heroin or some shit.

PATRICK: Oh, see, that makes it funnier.

ANDY: What is up with your ass this morning? It was a joke.

Jason looks out the window as sirens get louder, seeing a few police cars pull up. A worried look crosses his face as police officers get out.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

A paper celebrating the Tigers win sits on a table. Nancy, Fred, and the other newspaper committee members stand around, watching the TV.

REPORTER (ON TV): We also don't yet know if foul play was involved. But whatever has occurred here is sure to touch a nerve across Hawkins.

INTERVIEWEE (ON TV): Ever since that girl, Barb, died a few years ago, it has been one thing after another. I'll tell ya, you start to believe all those things they say, that this town is cursed, that the devil lives here in Hawkins.

The words of the news report affect Nancy, and she seems to go into a trance.

FLSHBCK – EXT. HARRINGTON HOUSE – BACK YARD – POOL – UPSIDE DOWN

Barb screams, holding onto the ladder as tightly as possible.

BARB: Nancy!

Flashback to #106. The woods in the Upside Down. The Demogorgon shrieks at Nancy. She lets out a small scream and runs away.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

FRED: (slightly echo-y) I don't think anyone's gonna care about the basketball game anymore. Nancy?

Fred waves his hand in front of Nancy's face, making her snap back to reality.

FRED (CONT'D): Earth to Nancy.

NANCY: What?

FRED: I said I don't think anyone's gonna care about the game.

NANCY: Yeah. No, I know. Would you be up for a field trip?

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY

Nancy and Fred walk along quickly. Nancy looks determined, while Fred looks like he's along for the ride. They push open the doors and walk out of school.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – DAY

A barrier has been put up on the dirt road to keep non trailer park residents out while the officers do their investigation. Non trailer park residents stand behind the barrier, trying to get a good look. Chrissy's body is wheeled on a stretcher to a coroner's van, a black body bag around her hiding her from view.

REPORTER: Many of the residents we spoke to voiced similar concerns to us. Grief, shock, disbelief, anger. Everyone wants to know the same thing, how can so many tragedies befall a once-peaceful town? All eyes are now on the police for answers. Is the new chief of police, Powell, in over his head? Or is he the very saviour this town needs?

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Dustin and Claudia watch the news, with Dustin's leg bouncing anxiously and Claudia holding Tews tightly.

REPORTER (CONT'D)(ON TV): We'll be here the rest of the day right here on channel nine, where we'll keep you posted on all the latest developments. In the meantime, we recommend you keep your doors and windows locked tight. This is Beverly Moss, signing off for...

CLAUDIA: My heart can't take it anymore. It just can't take it.

The doorbell rings and Dustin gets up, opening the door to find Max standing outside. She looks frazzled, panting. Dustin looks confused and concerned.

DUSTIN (O.S.): Chrissy Cunningham?

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – DAY

Dustin paces the room.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): You're sure it was Chrissy?

MAX: Yes, she was in her cheerleader outfit. It was the same thing she was in when I saw her with Eddie.

DUSTIN: Did you tell all this to the cops?

MAX: No. No, but I...I can't be the only one who saw them together. I mean, they stood out.

DUSTIN: Eddie the freak with Chrissy the cheerleader?

MAX: Exactly. You know, his name's not in the news yet or anything, but I guarantee you Eddie is suspect number one right now.

DUSTIN: That's crazy. Eddie didn't do this. No way.

Max makes a face as if to say 'I wouldn't be so sure'.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): No way.

MAX: Well, we can't rule it out.

DUSTIN: Yes, we can.

MAX: Dustin!

DUSTIN: You don't know him like I do, Max. Okay? When we got to high school, Lucas made all his sports friends. Mike and me? I mean, no one was nice to us. No one except Eddie.

MAX: Okay. Well, I mean, they said the same shit about Ted Bundy.

Dustin makes a face.

MAX (CONT'D): Yeah, he's like a super nice guy but then he's murdering women on the weekend.

DUSTIN: So you're saying Eddie is like Ted Bundy?

MAX: No, I'm not saying...I'm saying that we can't presume, okay?

Dustin puts his hands up and walks away as if to say 'I can't with you'.

MAX (CONT'D): But it doesn't look good for Eddie.

Dustin sits on his bed with a sigh, staring at the ground. Max sighs. Dustin looks up at her.

DUSTIN: Why haven't you told the cops this?

Max crosses her arms.

MAX: I...I don't know.

DUSTIN: You don't know?

Max sighs. She sits on the bed next to Dustin.

MAX: After I saw Eddie and Chrissy go in the trailer...something else happened.

FLSHBCK – EXT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – NIGHT

Eddie opens the door to the Munson trailer and lets Chrissy in, doing a mini bow. He then walks in himself and closes the door. Max is pulled away from watching them by the dog barking.

MAX (CONT'D): Okay. All right. Last one.

FLSHBCK – INT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Susan is asleep on the couch. Max sits on the end of the couch, watching TV. The TV suddenly goes staticky, making Max sigh.

MAX (CONT'D): Come on.

Max stands up as the static intensifies, fidgeting with the antennas. She bangs on the TV. The lights behind her start flickering, making her turn around. Every single light in the trailer flickers. They suddenly stop, and the TV resumes playing as normal. Eddie's scream can be heard in the distance, making Max look in its direction and walk over to the door. Max looks through the window to see Eddie running out of his trailer, quickly getting into his van and taking off.

MAX (CONT'D)(O.S.): Nothing that weird or anything. I mean...

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – DAY

MAX (CONT'D): Eddie always drives like a maniac, and the power goes off at my place all the time. It's a piece of shit. But...this morning, I started to think back, and...I don't know. The look on his face. He was scared, Dustin. Really scared. Maybe he was scared because, you know, he...he just killed someone, or...maybe, um...maybe be...because...I don't...I don't know, maybe...

DUSTIN: Something else killed her.

Max nods.

MAX: But that's impossible. Right?

DUSTIN: I don't know. It should be. There's only one person who knows what actually happened.

MAX: Eddie.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – HALLWAY – DAY

Max and Dustin walk quickly out of his room and head to the front door.

DUSTIN: Have you talked to anyone else?

MAX: No. I can't find Lucas or Nancy, and Mike's in-

DUSTIN: California. Shit, shit, shit.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

CLAUDIA: Dusty, where are you going?

DUSTIN: To see a friend.

Dustin opens the door and Max walks out.

CLAUDIA: You heard the news. It's not safe.

DUSTIN: Good point. We'll be extra careful. Thanks, Mum. Love you. Bye.

Dustin closes the door behind them.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Murray opens the taxi boot and pulls out his luggage with a grunt. He closes the boot and the taxi drives off, leaving Murray to walk up the driveway.

MURRAY (O.S.): "Hop is alive".

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Murray sits on the couch, reading the note that was inside the doll. Joyce paces the floor in front of him.

MURRAY (CONT'D): "He looks ford to date. Pleez to make resarvation, call seven-four-one-five-two", blah-blah. "Open twelve day PETT. No government, please. Kind regards, Enzo".

Murray looks up at Joyce. She makes a 'see?' face.

MURRAY (CONT'D): I like it even less in person.

JOYCE: What do you mean, 'like it less'?

MURRAY: I don't trust it. For starters, who the hell sent this?

JOYCE: A friend?

MURRAY: A friend?

JOYCE: Of Hop's?

MURRAY: "Hop is alive. No government"? This looks and reads like a ransom note, and a bad one at that. There's no proof of life here.

JOYCE: Yes, there is.

Joyce sits on the couch next to Murray.

JOYCE (CONT'D): It's signed 'Enzo'.

MURRAY: So?

JOYCE: So? There's only two people who knew about our date at Enzo's, and that's me and Hop. So, whoever wrote this, Hop trusted enough to make him sign it Enzo. He's sending me a message.

Murray puts the note down and turns his body more to face Joyce.

MURRAY: You saw him die, Joyce.

Flashback to #308. The Gate observation room. Joyce pants and looks into the Gate room, seeing the destroyed machine and no Hopper.

JOYCE: I didn't see a body.

MURRAY: Because he evaporated.

JOYCE: Or...he survived.

MURRAY: Okay. Okay.

Murray stands up and walks around the coffee table to stand where Joyce had been standing.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Let's indulge this fantasy for a moment. He's Houdini. He's a cat man with nine lives. Whatever it is, he survives. What's he doing in Russia? He was captured, that's what. Then he probably met some new friends. And by friends, I mean the KGB. And believe me when I tell you, these people are the worst of the worst. I am talking torture, Joyce. And no matter how strong you think Jim is, they will break him. They will get his whole life story. And yes, that might very well include a planned date at Enzo's with you, his co-conspirator, making this all an elaborate ruse to capture you as well.

Joyce makes a face.

JOYCE: You just all made that up.

Murray scoffs, moving to sit on the coffee table in front of Joyce.

MURRAY: It's a theory.

JOYCE: I prefer mine.

MURRAY: So do I. Doesn't make it right.

JOYCE: Well, either way, this could be real. Hopper could be alive.

MURRAY: I suppose there's only one way to find out.

Murray stands up and walks over to his suitcase.

JOYCE: What are you doing?

Murray lays his suitcase down and kneels beside it.

MURRAY: We're gonna call that number and you're going to find out who the hell sent you that letter.

Murray unzips the suitcase.

MURRAY (CONT'D): But we're doing it...my way.

Murray flips the suitcase open.

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – GATE ROOM

Hopper grabs onto the ladder and pulls himself up to the higher platform, grunting with effort. He reaches the higher platform and crawls along, his breathing laboured. He stops when he sees feet in front of him, looking up to see guards with their guns pointed at him. One guard seems amused, his gun slung over his shoulder.

GUARD: *(in Russian)* Where do you think you're going?

The guard gives an amused headshake as he pulls his gun off, butting Hopper in the face with the end of it.

FLSHBCK – INT. KYRZRAN BUILDING – NIGHT

Hopper is hung from chains with his hands above his head, his feet only barely able to stand flat on the ground. He's punched in the face by a guard, and has clearly already been beaten, with blood on his lip and one eye swollen. The lead interrogator stands nearby.

LEAD INTERROGATOR: Tell me, who you work with?

HOPPER: I told you, no one.

The guard punches Hopper again. Hopper pants. The lead interrogator holds up a photo of Joyce, taken when they infiltrated the base under Starcourt Mall.

LEAD INTERROGATOR: This woman, who is she?

HOPPER: Why don't you tell me? She's wearing a Russian uniform.

The lead interrogator stares at Hopper before turning to look behind him.

LEAD INTERROGATOR: (in Russian) Get the Elephant.

FLSHBCK – INT. KYRZRAN BUILDING – NIGHT

Hopper is forced into a chair by guards, who handcuff his wrists and ankles in place. One of them grabs a gas mask with a long tube connected, and the other helps him stretch it over Hopper's face. Hopper breathes heavily. The lead interrogator bends down and looks at Hopper through the dirty goggles, which fog up with Hopper's breathes.

LEAD INTERROGATOR (CONT'D): You want to die for this woman, American?

Hopper doesn't say anything. The lead interrogator looks at one of the guards and gives a small nod, stepping backwards. The guard grabs the tube and kneels next to Hopper, staring at him as he bends the tube and holds it tightly, air hissing. The lead interrogator looks at his watch before looking at Hopper again. Hopper's body starts jolting as his air flow is restricted, straining against his binds and thrashing around.

EXT. RINK-O-MANIA – DAY

Argyle's van pulls up outside, stopping to let Mike, Eleven, and Will out. Jonathan and Argyle watch them as they round the front of the van to head inside.

JONATHAN: Hey, Will.

Will stops and turns around.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): We'll be back at 6. Have fun, okay?

Will gives a small nod.

WILL: Okay.

Will turns and follows Mike and Eleven inside, leaving Jonathan and Argyle to drive away.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DAY

Skaters skate and dance around the rink as 'You Spin Me Round (Like A Record)' by Dead or Alive plays.

DEAD OR ALIVE (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) I've got to have my way now, baby...All I know is that to me you look like you're having fun...Open up your lovin' arms...watch out, here I come...You spin me right 'round, baby, right 'round...You spin me right 'round, baby, right 'round...Like a record, baby, right 'round, 'round, 'round...You spin me right 'round, baby, right 'round...Like a record, baby, right 'round, 'round, 'round...

In the rest of Rink-O-Mania, people play pinball, arm wrestling, air hockey, and so much more in the arcade. A lady serves up drinks.

SERVER: You ordered fries?

Over at the skates counter, Mike, Eleven, and Will are grabbing skates. A worker puts Eleven's skates on the counter.

WORKER: Have fun.

ELEVEN: Thanks.

The trio turn around, holding their skates, and start heading to a bench where they can put them on.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Bitchin', right?

MIKE: Yeah, yeah, bitchin'. Do you come here a lot?

ELEVEN: Yeah.

WILL: No.

Eleven gives Will a pointed look.

ELEVEN: Will does not, but I go to parties here.

WILL: No-

ELEVEN: It's a big party place.

Will rolls his eyes.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – SEATING AREA – DAY

The trio sits down on a bench and start putting their skates on. Eleven sees that Mike has no socks.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Oh, I forgot. You need socks.

MIKE: Oh, shit.

WILL: They...they sell them at the counter.

MIKE: Oh, okay.

Mike gets up and walks towards the counter. Will waits until he's out of earshot.

WILL: How'd you forget about the socks? I mean, since you come here all the time.

ELEVEN: I...I don't know. I just forgot.

WILL: Right. Why do you keep lying?

ELEVEN: What?

WILL: Why do you keep lying to Mike?

ELEVEN: I'm not lying.

WILL: You're not? You're friends with Angela and Stacy and you come to parties here?

ELEVEN: I have been to a party here.

WILL: For Mum's work. That's not what you implied. I just...I don't think Mike's gonna like that you're lying to him. And he doesn't deserve that. And when he finds out, he's gonna be mad.

Mike comes back and sits down, completely unaware of Will and Eleven's conversation.

MIKE: Okay, so, I asked for vomit green and I got vomit green.

Eleven chuckles.

MIKE (CONT'D): Isn't that awesome?

Mike starts to put his socks and skates on. Eleven sighs before plastering a smile on her face as she ties her skates up, trying not to think about Will's words.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

Mike and Eleven skate onto the rink, holding hands, with Mike shaky on his feet. Will skates behind them. Mike chuckles nervously.

MIKE (CONT'D): I'm so bad at this, I'm like Bambi on ice.

Eleven laughs.

ELEVEN: No, you're good. You got this.

MIKE: Okay.

Eleven whoops as she and Mike continue skating, leaving Will alone behind them. He skates after them without saying a word, a sad expression on his face. This visit from Mike was not what he was hoping it would be.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – EATING AREA – DAY

Teens sit in booths, eating food. Other teens skate through the area. 'Rock Me Amadeus' by Falco plays.

TEEN: That's what it's all about, right?

Angela, Stacy, Jake, and Chad walk into Rink-O-Mania, carrying their own skates. Angela spots Mike and Eleven first.

ANGELA: Oh my God, guys.

Angela stops while the others catch up.

ANGELA (CONT'D): Check it out.

JAKE: Who's that twig with her?

Chad chuckles.

ANGELA: I don't know. But it seems like the snitch has a boyfriend.

The others chuckle.

JAKE: Told you spring break's gonna be fun.

FALCO (ON SPEAKERS): (singing) Amadeus, Amadeus, Amadeus... Oh, oh, oh, oh, Amadeus...

EXT. BENNY'S BURGERS – CAR PARK – DAY

The boys who were inside when the police arrived are leaning against the outside of the building, waiting for their turn to be questioned. Lucas leans over a railing, looking anxious.

PATRICK: All right, let me check.

Patrick walks up to Lucas and leans against the railing next to him.

PATRICK (CONT'D): Hey. Look, I'm sure it's nothing, all right? Probably the neighbours complained about the noise or some shit.

Lucas gives a small nod.

PATRICK (CONT'D): You all right?

LUCAS: Yeah. I'm good.

PATRICK: All right.

Patrick pats Lucas on the back and walks away.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

Jason sits at a table opposite Powell, his arms crossed. Callahan paces.

POWELL: And you were here all night?

JASON: Yes. Ask anyone.

CALLAHAN: Oh, we will, but thank you for the suggestion.

POWELL: I see a whole lot of beer around. You have fun last night?

JASON: What, you gonna arrest me for drinking?

POWELL: It is against the law, so we could.

Powell looks at Callahan.

POWELL (CONT'D): Should we?

CALLAHAN: I vote for trespassing, myself. I don't think that Benny's family would be too thrilled to see what you've done to his place.

JASON: Yo, people have been using this shithole for years, man. Act like you guys didn't know.

POWELL: What about your girlfriend? She party here last night?

JASON: Chrissy? No.

CALLAHAN: That's odd, what with her being your girlfriend and all.

JASON: Why you asking about Chris?

POWELL: When's the last time you talked to her?

JASON: After the game. Look, this...this doesn't have to do with that dead student, does it?

POWELL: What did Chrissy say when you talked to her?

JASON: Well, sh-she...I mean, she said she was gonna go home, get changed, something like that.

CALLAHAN: Did she mention anything about buying drugs for the party?

JASON: Drugs? No. No way. Chrissy doesn't mess with that crap.

POWELL: Maybe someone talked her into it.

JASON: No. She's...she's straight as an arrow.

POWELL: What about Eddie Munson? Ever seen her talking to him?

JASON: That freak? No. No way.

Powell and Callahan look at each other. Powell clears his throat as Callahan writes something in his notepad.

JASON (CONT'D): Wait, what...what does Eddie have to do with all this? Did that freak hurt her? He hurt Chrissy?

Powell and Callahan don't say anything. Callahan closes his notepad.

JASON (CONT'D): Did he hurt Chrissy?

Powell and Callahan's silence speaks louder than words.

EXT. BENNY'S BURGERS – CAR PARK – DAY

Jason opens the door and quickly walks out, walking away from the restaurant without a word. The boys realise something's wrong and start after him.

PATRICK: Jason. Hey, man, you all right?

LUCAS: Jason, what happened?

Jason doesn't say anything, walking towards the woods. The boys run after him.

ANDY: Where are you going?

LUCAS: Is everything good? What'd they say?

ANDY: Are they gonna call our parents?

The boys stop at the edge of the woods as Jason walks into them.

PATRICK: Jason!

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

Jason walks into a clearing. He grabs his stomach as he slows down, dropping to his knees and sobbing. He screams.

EXT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Max and Dustin bike up.

INT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Max and Dustin quickly open the doors and walk inside. Steve and Robin are behind the counter, the news still playing.

DUSTIN: Hey, Steve.

STEVE: You guys see this?

DUSTIN: How many phones do you have?

STEVE: Someone was murdered.

DUSTIN: How many phones do you have?

STEVE: Uh, two. Why?

ROBIN: Technically three, if you count Keith's in the back.

Dustin and Max look at each other.

MAX: Yeah, three works.

Dustin steps back and pulls his backpack off.

STEVE: What are you doing?

Dustin puts his backpack onto the counter and shoves it hard, sending it flying to the ground behind it.

STEVE (CONT'D): Whoa! What are you-

ROBIN: My pile!

Dustin climbs onto the counter and swings his legs over, knocking a bunch of tapes down in the process. Max, in a more logical fashion, walks around the counter and through the back.

STEVE: No, no, no! My tapes! Dude.

Dustin ignores Steve's protests and sits at the computer, logging into the system.

STEVE (CONT'D): What are you doing, man?

Steve stands next to Dustin as Robin attempts to pick things up.

DUSTIN: Setting up a base of operations here.

ROBIN: Base of operations?

Max joins Dustin at the computer.

STEVE: Get off it, man.

DUSTIN: No, I need it.

STEVE: Need it for what?

DUSTIN: To look up Eddie's friends' phone numbers.

STEVE: Oh, Eddie. Your new best friend you think is cooler than me because he plays your nerdy game?

DUSTIN: Eddie, yes. I never said that.

ROBIN: Seriously, you guys, maybe on a Monday you can play around in here like toddlers, but it's Saturday. It's our busiest day.

DUSTIN: All right, Robin, I totally empathise, but this cannot wait until Monday.

STEVE: Oh my God.

ROBIN: What, because calling all of Eddie's friends is an emergency?

DUSTIN: Correct!

Steve joins Robin at the counter as she rearranges papers.

STEVE: Uh, do you want me to strangle him or do you want to do it?

ROBIN: We could take turns.

Dustin turns to Max as Steve walks back to him.

DUSTIN: Can you just fill them in while I do this?

Robin turns around.

ROBIN: Fill us in on what?

Max sighs as Dustin types furiously, thinking of the right words.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

The Wheeler car drives along.

FRED (O.S.): So what's our game plan?

INT. WHEELER CAR

Nancy drives as Fred sits in the passenger seat.

NANCY: Game plan?

FRED: Yeah. When you and Jonathan investigated for Hawkins Post, did you split up or...?

NANCY: Well, first of all, you're not Jonathan.

FRED: Clearly not. I'm here, present and accounted for.

NANCY: I've gone through a lot of managing editors. Okay?

FRED: Ooh, somebody's testy. Curious.

NANCY: I'm annoyed he's not here. Okay? Is that what you wanna hear? And yeah, something's going on with him. But guess what, that's not the mystery we're investigating today. A student died. And the game plan is for you to let me do the talking, for you to take notes in that little pad there, and for you to follow my lead at all times. Is that understood?

FRED: Totally and completely.

Fred salutes, making Nancy scoff slightly. Fred's smile fades as he sees a police car and officer parked at the entrance to the trailer park.

FRED (CONT'D): Shit. Slow down, slow down.

NANCY: Just act casual.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – DAY

Nancy turns into the trailer park.

INT. WHEELER CAR

FRED: And follow your lead.

The police officer holds his hand up as the Wheeler car approaches.

FRED (CONT'D): Got it.

Nancy stops the car in the entrance and rolls the window down as the police officer approaches. He wears a name tag reading DANIELS.

NANCY: Hi, officer.

DANIELS: Can't get through here. We've got a crime scene.

NANCY: Yeah, um, I...I was just going to...um...see Max Mayfield, a friend. She lives in there.

DANIELS: We're restricting access to residents only.

NANCY: It's just, um, her mum is working today and we would really like to check in on her.

FRED: We're basically her nanny. Nannies.

Daniels looks across Nancy to get a better look at Fred.

DANIELS: Don't I know you?

FRED: I don't think so.

DANIELS: Yeah. Actually, I do know you. You're Fred Benson. You killed that kid last year.

Fred looks concerned.

FRED: What?

Daniels sneers at Fred.

DANIELS: That ugly scar on your face. It's from that crash.

FLASHBACK – EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

A car is crashed in the middle of the road, a blaze engulfing it. A boy reaches out to Fred from the ground, yelling.

INT. WHEELER CAR

FRED: It...it was an accident.

DANIELS: (distorted) An accident?

Vines crawl out of wounds on Daniels' face as his eyes go cloudy. Fred nods nervously. Daniels' eyes are suddenly completely cloudy, vines attached to the sides of his face as his teeth go brown.

DANIELS (CONT'D): (distorted) Is that why you ran all the way home instead of calling us? You're a murderer is what you are.

The vines continue to move on Daniels' face. The scar on Fred's face begins to split open and bleed.

DANIELS (CONT'D): (distorted) Everyone here knows it. A murderer. Murderer. Murderer. Murderer. Murderer. Murderer. Murderer. Murderer. Murderer. Murderer!

Fred realises his scar is bleeding and reaches up to touch it.

DANIELS (CONT'D): You all right there?

INT. WHEELER CAR

Fred suddenly snaps back to reality, jumping.

FRED: What?

DANIELS: I said, you all right, kid? You're looking a little peaked.

FRED: Fine. I'm fine.

NANCY: He's just, um, on edge. I mean, we all are.

DANIELS: I'll let you check on your friend, but be fast. Yeah?

NANCY: Of course, officer. Thank you.

Daniels walks away and Nancy continues driving with a sigh.

NANCY (CONT'D): Okay, what was that? I said act casual.

FRED: Yeah, it's just...sorry.

EXT. LENORA HILLS JUNKYARD – DAY

Jonathan and Argyle stand on the hill above the car junkyard, golf clubs in hand and golf balls on the ground. Argyle hits a ball into a window, shattering the glass.

ARGYLE: Yes!

Argyle imitates a gun shot before blowing a raspberry. Jonathan lines up and swings with a grunt.

JONATHAN: I don't know. Part of me expected her to be on that plane. Or something. Just like, 'hey, surprise! Here I am'.

Argyle takes a bad swing.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): But also...

ARGYLE: Shit!

JONATHAN: I felt this...I felt this intense relief when she wasn't there.

ARGYLE: No, no, that's the Purple Palm Tree Delight working its magic, my man. Makes your troubles float away like the seed pods of a dandelion flowing in the wind.

JONATHAN: No.

Argyle hits another golf ball, which clangs as it hits a car.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): No, that's not it. Hey...if I show you something, you wouldn't tell anyone, right?

ARGYLE: Who would I tell? You're my only friend, Jonathan.

Argyle chuckles. He hits another ball, which clangs as it hits a car. Jonathan drops his golf club and pulls a piece of paper out of his pocket.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): Yes.

Jonathan holds the piece of paper out to Argyle, who imitates a gun shot and before farting.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): What's that?

Argyle takes the paper.

JONATHAN: It's an acceptance letter to Lenora Community.

ARGYLE: That's where I'm going.

JONATHAN: I know.

ARGYLE: But you're going to Emerson with Nancy.

JONATHAN: No, I'm not. She just doesn't know it yet.

ARGYLE: Wait, hold on, what is going on?

JONATHAN: Like, I...I can't leave my mum and my brother to...to...to chase a dream that isn't mine.

ARGYLE: You're dead, man. You are so dead.

JONATHAN: What was I supposed to do?

ARGYLE: Not lie.

JONATHAN: Not lie?

ARGYLE: Yeah.

JONATHAN: Not lie?

ARGYLE: Yeah!

JONATHAN: What, so I...I just tell her the truth?

ARGYLE: Yes.

JONATHAN: No. No.

Jonathan picks up his golf club and starts swinging it around as he rants and paces.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Because...because if I told her the truth, then she'd just throw her dreams out the window to come out here and be with me. And I...I just can't take that. Like, you know? Like, this...this huge knot of resentment would build, like...like some cancer, until she eventually hates me. And then, before you know it, we're just like my mum and dad.

Argyle takes another bad shot.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): We're divorced, and my kids hate me.

ARGYLE: Shit!

JONATHAN: Yeah, shit!

Argyle hits his golf club on the ground, and Jonathan does the same.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): I mean, it's all shit.

Jonathan groans.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): The cycle never ends.

ARGYLE: Yeah, man. Your nightmare cycle. You want it to stop, but what is your approach here, man? To just slow-motion break up with Nancy?

JONATHAN: I guess.

ARGYLE: No, man!

JONATHAN: I know. I don't know what to do.

ARGYLE: Palm Tree Delight! That's what you gotta do.

JONATHAN: Palm Tree Delight?

ARGYLE: Go, go. Go. Andale, andale.

JONATHAN: Really?

Argyle motions for Jonathan to go into the van.

ARGYLE: Andale. Arriba, arriba. Let's go.

JONATHAN: Okay.

Jonathan runs to the back of the van.

ARGYLE: Backpack in the back of the van. Go!

Jonathan grunts as he jumps into the van through the driver's window. Argyle sighs as he lines up another shot.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): Got me stressed out. It's not even my girlfriend.

Argyle takes a swing.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

'Tarzan Boy' by Baltimora plays as people skate around the rink.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – EATING AREA – DAY

Mike, Eleven, and Will sit in a booth. Mike and Eleven both have milkshakes.

MIKE: Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm. Yup, mine's better.

ELEVEN: No, it isn't.

ANGELA: Milkshakes?

Eleven looks up to see Angela and her friends skating towards their booth.

ANGELA (CONT'D): Yum.

Angela stops at the booth and puts her hands on the table. Eleven and Will both look uncomfortable.

ANGELA (CONT'D): Where, oh where have you been hiding this handsome thing?

ELEVEN: Uh, Angela, thi-this is Mike, my boyfriend.

Angela holds her hand out, which Mike shakes, unaware that Angela is Eleven's bully.

ANGELA: Angela. Pleasure.

MIKE: Heard a lot about you. It's really cool to meet some of El-Jane's friends.

ANGELA: Friends?

Angela and her friends chuckle.

ANGELA (CONT'D): Yeah. Super cool. Come on, friend.

Angela holds her hand out. Will looks nervous.

ANGELA (CONT'D): Let's skate, shall we?

ELEVEN: I wanted to finish this-

Jake reaches out and grabs Eleven's milkshake.

JAKE: I'll hold onto that.

Angela grabs Eleven's hand and pulls her up.

ANGELA: Come on.

Angela and her friends pull Eleven away from the booth. Will stands up and watches them skate away, nervous.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

Angela pulls Eleven onto the floor.

ANGELA (CONT'D): Whoo! Why are you so nervous? We're just having fun.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – EATING AREA – DAY

Will watches Eleven and Angela skating with increased concern. He spots Chad with a video camera and knows something's up.

WILL: Oh no.

Mike stands up.

MIKE: What?

WILL: El, she hasn't been telling you everything.

MIKE: What are you talking about?

WILL: She's lying to you, Mike.

MIKE: Bullshit.

WILL: No, listen to me. She's having problems here.

MIKE: Problems. Okay, what kind of problems?

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

Angela leads Eleven to the centre of the rink and stops in the middle.

ANGELA: Stay put.

Angela laughs as she skates away, leaving the confused Eleven alone.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

The DJ stops the music and picks up the microphone, which causes feedback. Mike and Will look at him.

DJ: All right, everyone. This next song is dedicated to Jane, the local snitch.

The DJ points at Eleven before flicking a switch.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

A spotlight appears over Eleven.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

The DJ puts the needle over a vinyl and 'Wipe Out' by the Surfaris plays.

THE SURFARIS (ON SPEAKERS): Hahahahaha, wipe out...

A drum intro begins and the DJ air drums along to it.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

People start to skate around Eleven in a circle, laughing and holding their hands up to imitate her.

GIRL 1: Freak! Go home!

GIRL 2: Loser!

Girls skate around Eleven, holding their hands out and laughing. Angela spins in a close circle around Eleven, laughing.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – EATING AREA – DAY

Will and Mike glance at each other.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

Chad laughs as he films. Eleven spins around as the girls skate around her, confused and scared. She loses her balance and shrieks as she catches it, making them laugh harder.

BULLY 1: She's a little baby!

BULLY 2: Baby!

The girls join hands as they skate around Eleven, forming a circle she can't escape from as they continue laughing and mocking.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – EATING AREA – DAY

Mike frowns as he watches the DJ dance and laugh. Will continues to watch Eleven with a worried expression. Mike starts walking towards the DJ booth.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

Eleven covers her ears in an attempt to block the skaters out, trying not to cry.

BULLY 3: Gonna cry to Mummy?

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

Mike skates up.

MIKE: Hey! Hey, hey, turn it off.

DJ: Sorry. I can't hear you, dude.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

The girls continue to laugh at Eleven.

BULLY 4: Crybaby!

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

Mike leans further into the booth.

MIKE: I said turn it off.

DJ: If you say so.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

The music distorts and the girls go blurry as Eleven is overwhelmed.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

The DJ stops the song with a record scratch.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

The girls stop skating around Eleven as the music stops. Eleven sees in horror that Jake is skating towards her, taking the lid off her milkshake as he gets closer.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

DJ (CONT'D): Wipeout!

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

Jake throws the milkshake onto Eleven, causing her to lose her balance and fall onto her back.

SKATERS: Oh!

The skaters all laugh at Eleven. Eleven groans on the floor, her dress drenched in milkshake.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – DJ BOOTH – DAY

Mike stares at Eleven in concern.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – EATING AREA – DAY

Will stares at Eleven in concern.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ROLLER RINK – DAY

Angela skates next to Eleven, standing over her.

ANGELA: Didn't you see the sign, dummy? 'No food or drinks on the rink'.

Angela laughs and skates off. Eleven tries not to cry as the skaters continue to laugh at her, the spotlight disappearing.

MIKE: EI! EI!

Eleven looks to see Mike skating onto the rink towards her.

MIKE (CONT'D): EI!

Eleven starts to cry and pushes herself up, skating towards the exit of the rink.

ANGELA: So sad!

MIKE: EI!

Eleven pushes through the crowd of laughing skaters, tears in her eyes.

ELEVEN: Stop. No.

Mike tries to push through the crowd.

MIKE: Hey, get out of my way! EI!

Eleven struggles to hold back tears as she pushes through the crowd of laughing skaters. Mike tries to get through but is held back.

MIKE (CONT'D): EI!

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

JOYCE (O.S.): Uh, Murray, we gotta make this call.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Murray sits at the dining table with a large contraption set up, typing away on the keyboard. Cords hang from the table as the phones connect to it. Joyce stands next to him, holding the letter.

MURRAY: One moment, please.

Murray presses a button.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Viola. Okay, you are now calling from Durham, North Carolina. But if this is KGB, they will still be able to trace us eventually, so keep it brief.

JOYCE: How brief?

MURRAY: A minute, max, and...

JOYCE: Proof of life. Got it.

Joyce sits down next to Murray and picks up a phone.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Okay.

Joyce types in the number in the letter.

JOYCE and MURRAY (IN UNISON): One, two...

Joyce and Murray time it just right, so Murray starts audio recording as soon as Joyce sets the phone onto the machine to speakerphone it.

EXT. KYRZRAN ROAD – DAY

A bus drives past an empty phone booth. It starts ringing.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

The phone rings.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Joyce and Murray wait anxiously for someone to pick up.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

The phone rings. Dimitri picks it up.

DIMITRI: This is Enzo.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

JOYCE: Hello, Enzo? This is Joyce. I received your message...

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

JOYCE (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): And I would like to make a reservation.

DIMITRI: Yes, good, good.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

DIMITRI (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): But for reservation, you need to make deposit.

JOYCE: Uh, what...what kind of deposit?

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

DIMITRI: Forty thousand dollars.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Murray and Joyce share identical 'what?' looks.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

DIMITRI (CONT'D): You have it in Hopper's trust, for the girl, yes?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

JOYCE: Uh, yes. Yes. Forty thousand.

DIMITRI (ON PHONE): Good.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

DIMITRI (CONT'D): Bring to Yuri's Fish n' Fly in Nome, Alaska.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

JOYCE: Uh, you want me to go to Alaska?

DIMITRI (ON PHONE): Yes.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

DIMITRI (CONT'D): You give Yuri money, Yuri gets me money, I give him your friend.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

DIMITRI (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): Simple trade, understand?

JOYCE: Uh...

Murray mouths 'signs of life'.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Uh, first, we...we're gonna have to speak to Hopper. We need to know that he's alive.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

A woman taps on the door.

WOMAN: Hey!

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Murray and Joyce jump at the banging.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

The woman speaks Russian at Dimitri, seeming annoyed.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Murray and Joyce look confused.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

Dimitri waves the woman off.

DIMITRI: I'm afraid not possible.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

JOYCE: Why not?

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

DIMITRI: Your friend is, uh, stuck.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

DIMITRI (CONT'D): But you give me money, I make him unstuck. You must trust me.

JOYCE: How do I trust you? I don't know who you are.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

The woman bangs on the door again and continues to speak Russian.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Murray and Joyce look confused.

INT. KYRZRAN PHONE BOOTH – DAY

DIMITRI: Forty thousand. Yuri's Fish n' Fly. Two days. Do not call again.

Dimitri hangs up.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

The connection is lost. Murray stops the recording.

JOYCE: Well, that wasn't the KGB.

MURRAY: But it wasn't a friend either.

JOYCE: So we're both wrong.

Murray gives a small shrug.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Who the hell was that?

Murray shakes his head.

FLASHBACK – INT. KYRZRAN BUILDING – NIGHT

Hopper is thrown to the ground by guards in front of the lead interrogator and a doctor. The doctor kneels down beside Hopper and checks his pulse.

DOCTOR: (in Russian) Still alive.

The lead interrogator kneels down.

DOCTOR (CONT'D): (in Russian) But he is barely breathing. More of this, he will die.

The lead interrogator taps Hopper's back.

LEAD INTERROGATOR: You are strong, American. Perhaps the Motherland could use that strength.

The lead interrogator nods his head at the guards.

LEAD INTERROGATOR (CONT'D): (in Russian) Send him to Kamchatka!

FLSHBCK – EXT. KYRZRAN ROAD – NIGHT

Two guards drag Hopper away from the building, his feet leaving trails in the snow. The lead interrogator and doctor watch him go.

DOCTOR: (in Russian) I never knew you to be generous.

LEAD INTERROGATOR: (in Russian) You clearly do not know Kamchatka, Doctor.

The guards throw Hopper into the back of a truck.

LEAD INTERROGATOR (CONT'D): (in Russian) This man does not deserve the peace of death. So I have sent him...to Hell.

The guards shut the door.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

A helicopter flies over the trees before landing in a large clearing. The door opens and Sullivan gets out, followed by army guards in camo. They meet up with a group of army guards also dressed in camo, who salute Sullivan.

ARMY GUARD: Present arms.

Sullivan salutes.

ARMY GUARD (CONT'D): Lieutenant Colonel, welcome to Indiana.

Sullivan and the army guard shake hands.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

The basketball boys crowd around a table. Jason slaps an old photo of the Hellfire Club down, featuring Eddie, Gareth, Jeff, Freak, and previous members. He points at Eddie.

JASON: Eddie Munson. He's a part of that freak devil club, Hellfire.

INT. ROANE COUNTY CORONER – MORGUE – DAY

A morgue worker throws back the white sheet over Chrissy, showing her body to Sullivan. A worker takes photos.

JASON (CONT'D)(O.S.): The cops, they say Chrissy went to him to buy drugs.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

PATRIC: Drugs? No.

JASON: That's what I said. Chrissy would never touch that shit.

INT. ROANE COUNTY CORONER – MORGUE – DAY

The worker takes photos of Chrissy's mangled body.

JASON (CONT'D)(O.S.): They wouldn't even show her parents her face.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

JASON (CONT'D): Look I don't know what this freak did to Chrissy, but he did something sick.

ANDY: Probably sacrificed her...

INT. ROANE COUNTY CORONER – MORGUE – DAY

The worker takes photos of Chrissy's mangled body.

ANDY (CONT'D)(O.S.): Drained her blood for the devil. I hear Satanists do that.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

JASON: Yeah, see, that's what I'm saying. It's this cult he's in.

INT. ROANE COUNTY CORONER – MORGUE – DAY

The worker takes photos of Chrissy's mangled body.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

LUCAS: Hellfire isn't a cult.

The boys all turn to look at Lucas.

LUCAS (CONT'D): It's...it's just a D&D club.

None of the boys know what he's talking about.

LUCAS (CONT'D): D...D&D? Dungeons & Dragons?

Still nothing.

LUCAS (CONT'D): It's like a...it's like a game. It...it's fantasy.

Andy walks towards Lucas, the other boys crossing their arms.

ANDY: And how exactly is it that you know all that, Sinclair?

LUCAS: Uh...well, it's my sister. Yeah, she's like...she's like, a total nerd. You know?

ANDY: Yeah.

LUCAS: Nerds? Like, she plays a lot sometimes-

Jason walks up.

JASON: You know, I'm sure your sister isn't killing people, right? But I've read the wrong person plays this game, it can...it can warp their mind. They confuse fantasy and reality, and innocent people die. I mean, it's been happening all over the country. It's like...it's like an epidemic.

PATRICK: Yeah, I've read about that shit. It's real.

JASON: And I think Eddie...he's the wrong type of person, right? You know, he got lost. He thought Chrissy was just a part of his...his sick game. And chances are, he's still in the game. Meaning-

PATRICK: He's gonna kill again.

JASON: But not if we can help it. Would Chrissy want us to just stand by while the cops go around pursuing some...some bullshit leads, spreading rumours saying she's some...some druggy?

BASKETBALL BOYS: No!

JASON: No, she'd want us to go out there. To do something about it, wouldn't she?

BASKETBALL BOYS: Yeah!

JASON: Then let's hunt some freak!

BASKETBALL BOYS: Yeah!

JASON: For Chrissy!

BASKETBALL BOYS: Yeah!

Everyone but Lucas is hyped up.

JASON: Let's go!

BASKETBALL BOYS: Yeah!

Jason holds up the Hellfire Club poster and holds it over a lighter, lighting it on fire. This only hypes the boys up further, who cheer and clap. Lucas stares at the poster, seemingly regretting being part of this group.

PATRICK: Let's go!

Jason watches as the flame reaches Eddie and burns him off the paper.

INT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Dustin, Max, and Robin sit on the phones, talking to anyone they can get their hands on who could tell them where Eddie is. Steve serves customers.

DUSTIN: Have you seen or heard from Eddie recently?

MAX: Eddie Munson?

DUSTIN: Well when's the last time you talked to him?

MAX: Yeah, seen him?

DUSTIN: Okay. Sorry to bother you.

MAX: Know anyone who'd know where he is?

Dustin crosses a name off a whiteboard.

ROBIN: I really don't think he's at the arcade. Yep, I'm pretty sure.

MAX: Reefer Rick? No. Does this Reefer Rick have a last name? I mean, it's kind of...

Steve walks up to a girl in the corner of the store.

STEVE: All right, Doctor Zhivago. It's a double VHS. It's long. But that's because it's filled with action and romance, and a little bit of suspense.

GIRL: So, my boyfriend won't, like, totally puke when I bring it home?

STEVE: Oh, you...your boyfriend? Uh, no. No. He's gonna...he's gonna love it. Yeah.

EXT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

The girl pushes the door open and starts walking away.

GIRL: See ya.

Steve rests his arm on the door handle.

STEVE: Yeah, see ya later. Alligator.

Steve looks annoyed at his stupid attempt and closes the door.

STEVE (CONT'D): Goddammit.

INT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Max puts the phone down.

MAX: Hey, guys, I might have a lead.

Robin puts the phone down as Dustin spins in his chair, looking excited.

DUSTIN: Seriously?

MAX: Yeah. Apparently, Eddie gets his drugs from some guy named Reefer Rick, and sometimes Eddie crashes there.

ROBIN: That sounds promising. Where does this Reefer Rick guy live?

MAX: See, that's the thing. No one knows. He's more of a...a legend than someone that people actually know.

DUSTIN: Well what about a last name?

MAX: I don't know that name either.

STEVE: Bet the cops know the last name.

The trio look at Steve as he stacks movies by the door.

MAX: What?

STEVE: Cops. I mean, listen, if this Reefer Rick is actually a drug dealer...

Steve turns around and leans on the counter.

STEVE (CONT'D): I guarantee you he's been busted at some point. Means he's in the system.

DUSTIN: The cops? Really, Steve? That's your suggestion?

STEVE: I mean, I just think at this point they should probably be filled in on what we know, what's going on.

DUSTIN: You think Eddie's guilty, don't you?

STEVE: Whoa, whoa, whoa. I believe in innocent until proven guilty, all that constitutional shit. I just, you know, just don't think we can rule it out.

MAX: That's precisely what we're trying to do here, Steve.

DUSTIN: And maybe we'd have a little bit more luck if you spent less time trying to find a girlfriend and more time trying to find Eddie.

STEVE: Oh, well, somebody has to attend to the customers.

ROBIN: Especially if they're babes, right?

Robin winks.

STEVE: Hey, not fair. Okay? I attend to all the customers equally, babes and non-babes alike.

Dustin, Max, and Robin do not believe him in the slightest.

STEVE (CONT'D): We've got a very big selection in here, okay?. It can be super overwhelming for these people.

Robin has a realisation.

ROBIN: Yeah, it can be.

Robin turns around and sits at the computer. Max stands next to her.

MAX: What are you doing?

ROBIN: Maybe we don't need a last name.

Dustin moves to stand next to Max, while Steve moves around the counter. Robin types away, bringing up anyone named Rick with an account.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Twelve Ricks already have accounts here.

MAX: That's a lot of Ricks.

ROBIN (CONT'D): So, let's narrow it down.

Robin selects the first Rick.

ROBIN: Rick Alderman's latest rentals are Annie and Dumbo. What are the chances our drug dealer has a family?

MAX: Not likely.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Alright.

Robin selects the next Rick.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Rick Conroy. Sixteen Candles, Teen Wolf, and Romancing the Stone.

MAX, STEVE, and DUSTIN (IN UNISON): No.

ROBIN: Okay.

Robin selects the next Rick.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Rick Joiner. Mask, Footloose, and Grease.

MAX and STEVE (IN UNISON): Nah.

Robin selects the next Rick.

ROBIN: Rick Kimbrough. The Blue Lagoon and Splash.

The group laughs.

MAX: Definitely not.

STEVE: No way.

Robin selects the next Rick. As the movies start appearing, the group knows they have their guy.

ROBIN: Okay. Rick Lipton. Fast Times at Ridgemont High. Cheech & Chong's Next Movie. Cheech & Chong's Nice Dreams. Cheech & Chong's Up In Smoke.

Dustin chuckles.

DUSTIN: Bingo.

MAX: Lipton?

ROBIN: Spelled like the tea. 2121 Holland Road.

DUSTIN: That's out by Lovers Lake.

MAX: Middle of nowhere.

ROBIN: It's a perfect place to hide.

EXT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

The group runs out of the store and piles into Steve's car, with Robin locking the store door before she does, the sign reading 'SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED'.

EXT. TRAILER – DAY

Nancy knocks on the door. After a few moments, she knocks again. An annoyed looking lady swings the door open, making Nancy stumble back slightly.

NANCY: Um, hi, I'm Nancy Wheeler from the Hawkins Tiger-

ANNOYED LADY: I've talked to enough reporters. Yeah.

The annoyed lady closes the door. Nancy sighs.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – DAY

Nancy and Fred walk along the road looking for people to interview.

NANCY: Okay, well...what about that one? With the flag?

FRED: Yeah, I tried them twice. They were actually quite rude. I am not doing that again.

Nancy spots the dog behind the fence.

FRED (CONT'D): I'm telling you, we've talked to everyone.

NANCY: Nope. Not everyone.

Nancy runs up to the fence, kneeling down and sticking her hand through to try and pet it. Fred catches up to her.

NANCY (CONT'D): Hi there. Hi. Did you see something last night, huh?

The dog yawns and lets Nancy pet it.

NANCY (CONT'D): Oh, you wanna tell us everything?

FRED: Nancy, come on. Let's get outta here.

Nancy looks up at Fred.

NANCY: But he's just the cutest little witness.

Nancy spots Wayne sitting on the table of a picnic bench under a shelter. She stands up and starts walking towards him.

NANCY (CONT'D): Stay here.

Fred watches her go.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – SHELTER – DAY

Wayne sits on the table of a picnic bench, smoking a cigarette. He still looks rattled. Nancy walks up to him. He spots her and seems a little annoyed at the thought of talking to another reporter but says nothing.

NANCY (CONT'D): Hi. Uh, I'm a friend of Max Mayfield's, over there.

Nancy points in the direction of the Mayfield trailer. Wayne doesn't look.

NANCY (CONT'D): You're Wayne Munson, aren't you? Eddie's uncle?

WAYNE: That's right.

NANCY: I heard you found the body.

Wayne turns his head away.

NANCY (CONT'D): The neighbours, they were-

WAYNE: Like to gossip. And I'm not interested in gossiping no more. Certainly not to a reporter.

NANCY: What gave me away?

Nancy moves to sit on the picnic table next to Wayne.

NANCY (CONT'D): Look, let me level with you, Mr. Munson. The paper that I write for is...small. We don't have the staff to keep up with the big guys. And I'm just...looking for something, anything really, about what happened last night.

WAYNE: Why? Far as I can tell, you all have it figured out already. My nephew's a freak. He killed that girl. Ain't that about right?

NANCY: Let me guess. You've been speaking to the Hawkins Post? Chuck Bailey? Yeah, I used to work with him. I mean, that guy doesn't know his ass from his elbow.

Wayne gives a small nod as if to say he agrees.

NANCY (CONT'D): Let me tell your side of the story.

Wayne stares at Nancy.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – DAY

Fred stands where Nancy told him to stay, flicking through his notebook. A clock chimes, making Fred look up and into the woods. The clock chimes again.

WAYNE (O.S.): My nephew...

The clock chimes again.

WAYNE (CONT'D)(O.S.): He may look dangerous...

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – SHELTER – DAY

WAYNE (CONT'D): But he didn't do this. It just...ain't in his nature.

Wayne takes a drag of the cigarette.

WAYNE (CONT'D): No matter what anyone says, and they will say things, believe you me. But...this...wasn't Eddie. The man who did this...who killed that poor girl, he's...pure evil.

Nancy looks confused.

NANCY: 'Man'? You think you know who might've done this?

WAYNE: You ever hear the name Victor Creel?

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – DAY

The clock chimes. Fred starts walking towards the woods.

WAYNE (CONT'D)(O.S.): I guess you're too young, but back when I was a kid, everybody knew the name Victor Creel.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – SHELTER – DAY

WAYNE (CONT'D): He lost his mind. Killed his whole family. Kids and wife. Took their eyes. Cut 'em right out.

NANCY: God.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

Fred walks through the woods. The clock chimes.

WAYNE (O.S.): That poor girl I saw this morning, same exact thing. So I'm thinking maybe he broke out.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – SHELTER – DAY

NANCY: Victor Creel is still alive?

WAYNE: They locked him away in Pennhurst Asylum. Yeah, as far as I know, he's still there. That is, unless he broke out.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

Fred comes across a grandfather clock lying on its back.

WAYNE (CONT'D)(O.S.): Like that...what's his name? White mask and killed the babysitters?

The clock chimes.

NANCY (O.S.): Michael Myers?

WAYNE (O.S.): Yeah, Michael Myers. You ask me, Victor's like that.

The clock chimes.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – SHELTER – DAY

WAYNE (CONT'D): He's a real boogeyman.

There's a strong wind gust. Nancy looks in the direction of the fence as the dog barks, only to see that Fred is gone.

NANCY: Um, I'll be right back.

Nancy gets up and starts walking towards the fence as the dog continues to bark.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – DAY

Nancy approaches the fence as the dog continues to bark, the animal facing towards the woods.

NANCY (CONT'D): Fred? Fred!

Nancy stops at the edge of the trailer park, looking into the woods.

NANCY (CONT'D): Fred!

Nancy turns around.

NANCY (CONT'D): Fred?

Nancy starts walking away from the woods.

NANCY (CONT'D): Fred?

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

The clock chimes. Fred stands over it. The clock ticks, the pendulum swinging. It chimes again. It ticks then chimes again. There's muffled weeping behind Fred, and he slowly turns around. Men, women, and a girl stand in the woods, dressed in black with their heads down, all sobbing. The girl looks up, her face pale and her eyes white. She slowly raises her finger to point at Fred, her hand becoming gnarly and long as it raises.

GIRL: Murderer. Murderer! Murderer.

The people behind the girl slowly raise their heads, revealing pale mangled faces and white eyes.

WOMAN: Murderer.

GIRL: Murderer!

MAN: Murderer.

Fred grips the clock in fear.

MOURNERS: Murderer! Murderer! Murderer! Murderer! Murderer! Murderer! Murderer! Murderer!

Fred shakes his head and starts running away, panting.

GIRL: Murderer!

Cut to black.

FLSHBCK – EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – TOLL BOOTH – DAY

Hopper sits on a chair as a guard shaves his head.

WARDEN (O.S.): *(in Russian)* You are no longer men.

FLSHBCK – EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – TOLL BOOTH – DAY

Hopper stands naked against the wall as a guard turns a hose on, hosing him down.

WARDEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): *(in Russian)* You are cogs in a machine. A machine in service of our great Motherland.

FLSHBCK – EXT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – TOLL BOOTH – DAY

A small group of prisoners dressed in thick coats and wool hats line up. Hopper stands at the end of the row. The warden paces in front of them.

WARDEN (CONT'D): *(in Russian)* And if you are foolish enough to attempt escape, you will be hunted down. You will be captured. And then you will suffer greatly as you perform your final act for the Motherland. There will be no second chances.

The warden stops in front of Hopper, who stares him down.

WARDEN (CONT'D): *Run, you die. You hear, American?*

Hopper gives a small nod.

DIMITRI (O.S.): Your friend is...stuck.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Joyce and Murray play the phone recording back.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)(ON RECORDER): But you get me money, I make him unstuck. You must trust me.

JOYCE (ON RECORDER): How do I trust-

Joyce stops the tape and rewinds.

MURRAY: Joyce, whoever Enzo is, the answer is not on that tape.

Joyce presses play. The angry Russian lady can be heard speaking.

JOYCE: You don't hear that? In the background?

MURRAY: So he's outside. Someone's talking. Not surprising.

Joyce stops the recording.

JOYCE: I think she's talking to Enzo.

Murray moves next to Joyce.

MURRAY: Play it again.

Joyce rewinds and presses play. The angry Russian lady can be heard speaking. Murray tries to listen closely.

JOYCE: Can you translate that?

MURRAY: Uh, I...I can't understand it. It's too low.

Joyce has a realisation. She stops the tape and ejects it.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Joyce opens the door and walks inside, followed by Murray. Joyce walks up to Jonathan's cassette player, putting the tape in and pressing play.

FLASHBACK – INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – DAY

Hopper is led through the corridor by armed guards. People talk Russian all around. Prisoners bang on the gated cell doors. One prisoner bangs on the outside of the door with his bowl.

PRISONER: Hey!

As Hopper walks down the corridor, he passes two prisoners being led by armed guards. One of the prisoners mimes slitting his throat.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Joyce and Murray sit on Jonathan's bed, with Murray wearing headphones connected to the cassette player.

DIMITRI (ON RECORDING): But you get me money, I make him unstuck.

MURRAY: Turn it up.

DIMITRI (ON RECORDING): You must trust me.

Joyce turns the volume up.

JOYCE (ON RECORDING): How do I trust you? I don't know who you are.

Flashback to #402. The phone booth in Kyrzran. The angry Russian lady bangs on the door and yells through to Enzo.

MURRAY: She...she wants to use the phone. She's mad at Enzo.

Flashback to #402. The phone booth in Kyrzran. The angry Russian lady bangs on the door and yells through to Enzo.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Calls him 'moosor'.

JOYCE: 'Moosor'?

MURRAY: It's slang.

JOYCE: For what?

FLSHBCK – INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – DAY

Hopper is led up the stairs by armed guards.

MURRAY (O.S.): Literally, 'moosor' translates to trash or garbage.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

MURRAY (CONT'D): It's like 'pig' here, often directed at cops.

JOYCE: Cops?

FLSHBCK – INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – DAY

Hopper is led up the stairs by armed guards.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

Murray takes the headphones off.

MURRAY: Or guards.

FLSHBCK – INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HALLWAY – DAY

One guard unlocks and opens the solid cell door, before doing the same to the gated door. Hopper slowly moves into the doorway.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

JOYCE: Hopper's stuck.

FLSHBCK – INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HOPPER'S CELL – DAY

Hopper is pushed in by the guards, making him stumble and fall. The guard who unlocked the doors closes the gated door and stares at Hopper through it.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

MURRAY: And Enzo can get him unstuck.

FLSHBCK – INT. KAMCHATKA PRISON – HOPPER'S CELL – DAY

As Hopper stands up, we see that the guard at the door is Dimitri.

DIMITRI: Yeah, it's not exactly the Ritz, is it? Welcome to your new home, American.

Dimitri closes and locks the solid door.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – DINING ROOM – DAY

MURRAY: Enzo's a prison guard.

JOYCE: Maybe Hopper bribed him.

MURRAY: Sounds like Jim, doesn't it?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

Joyce grabs her purse from her desk and heads to the front door. Murray runs down the stairs.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Joyce, where are you going?

JOYCE: The bank. I'm gonna get Enzo his damn money...

Joyce opens the door.

JOYCE (CONT'D): And we are getting Hopper back.

MURRAY: Okay.

Murray walks after Joyce, closing the door behind them.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – GIRL'S BATHROOM – DAY

Mike pushes the door open. The girls inside look annoyed that he's there.

MIKE: El?

GIRL: What the hell? Get out!

Mike closes the door and walks away. The girl runs to the door and makes sure it's shut.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – ARCADE – DAY

Mike walks up to Will.

WILL: Not there?

MIKE: No.

Mike and Will start walking through the arcade.

MIKE (CONT'D): You should've told me she was having trouble.

WILL: Well I didn't know they were gonna be here, Mike.

MIKE: Yeah but you knew she was having trouble for like a year and you didn't tell me.

WILL: Well I didn't know she was lying to you.

MIKE: Which is why you just had to be such a douche to her all day?

WILL: I wasn't being a douche.

MIKE: You were.

Mike and Will stop walking and face each other.

MIKE (CONT'D): You were rolling your eyes, and you were...you were moping. You were barely talking. You basically sabotaged the whole day.

WILL: Well she was lying to you, Mike. Straight to your face, ever since you got here. And I've been a total third wheel all day. It's been miserable. So, sorry if I wasn't...wasn't smiling.

MIKE: Yeah, whatever, man.

Mike turns and walks away.

WILL: Well, what about us?

Mike turns and looks at Will.

MIKE: What?

Will walks up to Mike.

WILL: What, you're mad that I didn't talk to you? It seems like you made it super clear that you're not interested in anything I have to say.

MIKE: That's just not true.

WILL: You've called maybe a couple times. It's been a year, Mike. Meanwhile, El has like a book of letters from you.

MIKE: That's because she's my girlfriend, Will.

WILL: And us?

MIKE: We're friends. We're friends.

WILL: Well we used to be best friends.

MIKE: Well then maybe you should've reached out more. I don't know. But why is this on me? Why...why am I the bad guy?

Will looks away, not knowing what to say. Mike sighs.

MIKE (CONT'D): Let's just...let's just find her. Okay?

Mike walks off. Will sighs before following.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – STORAGE ROOM – DAY

Eleven sits on the floor, crying, using a rag to clean her face. Angela, Stacy, Jake, and Chad can be heard laughing outside.

JAKE (O.S.): Yeah.

Eleven slowly stands up and makes her way to the window, peeking through the blinds to see Angela, Stacy, Jake, and Chad laughing at the video footage.

ANGELA: Oh my God, her face.

JAKE: Right?

ANGELA: She looks like she shit herself.

JAKE: Yeah.

The group laughs. Eleven looks down, tears rolling down her cheeks. Then she looks back at the group, a determined look on her face. She lets go of the blind.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – SEATING AREA – DAY

Eleven opens the door and walks out of the storage room, walking up to Angela.

ELEVEN: Angela.

The group turns to look at Eleven, smirking.

ANGELA: Uh-oh. Look who it is.

JAKE: She looks upset.

ELEVEN: You ruined my day.

ANGELA: Oh no. Did we embarrass you in front of your boyfriend?

ELEVEN: I want you to say sorry to me, and I want you to tell my boyfriend that it was just a joke and that we are really friends.

ANGELA: Or what?

Angela holds her hand out to mimic Eleven.

ANGELA (CONT'D): You gonna hurt us with your mean stare again?

Angela giggles.

ANGELA (CONT'D): Sorry you can't cry to teacher today. You'll just have to cry to your daddy instead. Oh, wait. Can't do that either.

The group laughs and walks away into the eating area. Anger contorts Eleven's face. She sees a man putting on skates and walks over to him, grabbing a skate as he puts it on.

MAN: Hey!

Eleven storms towards Angela, gripping the skate tightly in her hand.

ELEVEN: Angela.

Angela turns around and Eleven brings the skate down hard on her nose, knocking her to the ground.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – WALKWAY – DAY

Angela screams, making Mike and Will stop and turn to look.

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – EATING AREA – DAY

Gasps rip through the crowd. Jake and Stacy kneel beside Angela.

JAKE: Holy shit. Angela, you okay? Angela, hey. You okay?

Jake and Stacy slowly help Angela sit up, making everyone gasp.

BYSTANDER 1: Oh my God!

Angela looks out of it, a large gash on the bridge of her nose that drips blood.

BYSTANDER 2: What did she do?

JAKE: Oh my God.

STACY: Oh my God, what do we do?

Jake and Stacy try to stop Angela from touching her face too late.

JAKE: Oh, shit.

Angela pulls her hand away in pain with a shriek, then starts to freak out upon seeing blood. Eleven stares at her, looking horrified that she caused that damage.

JAKE (CONT'D): You're okay. You're okay.

Eleven looks down at the skate in her hand as Angela sobs, one of the wheels bloody and dripping. Eleven turns to see a crowd formed, all staring at her. Eleven turns to look at the sobbing Angela as more blood drips down her face. Mike and Will push through the crowd and stand behind Eleven, looking at Angela in horror.

WILL: Oh...oh my God.

MIKE: Holy shit, El. What did you do? What did you do?

FLASHBACK – INT. HAWKINS LAB – RAINBOW ROOM – DAY

Brenner stares at Eleven. Blood is splattered everywhere, and dead kids line the floor, their bones all snapped.

BRENNER: What have you done? What have you done?

INT. RINK-O-MANIA – EATING AREA – DAY

Angela screams. Eleven lets out a shuddering breath and closes her eyes, a tear rolling down her cheek.

EXT. LIPTON HOUSE – NIGHT

Steve's car pulls up and parks beside the house.

EXT. LIPTON HOUSE – FRONT PORCH

Dustin, Steve, Robin, and Max stand outside the front door, torches on. Dustin rings the doorbell. When there's no answer, he rings again. When there's still no answer, he keeps pressing the doorbell.

STEVE: Okay. Well, that's settled. I guess he's not here.

Dustin bangs on the door.

DUSTIN: Eddie!

STEVE: Great.

DUSTIN: It's Dustin!

Robin moves to look through the window, shining her torch inside.

DUSTIN (CONT'D) Look, we just wanna talk, okay? No cops, I swear. We just wanna help.

Dustin bangs on the door.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie!

ROBIN: Shh!

Robin moves on to the next window as Max starts looking through the windows. Dustin rings the doorbell continuously.

DUSTIN: Rick!

Dustin bangs on the door.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Reefer Rick!

STEVE: Don't scream that.

Dustin bangs on the door. Max moves to check out the side of the house.

DUSTIN: Rick!

STEVE: Yeah, he's not there.

DUSTIN: Reefer Rick!

STEVE: Just...

Max spots the boat shed in the distance, the light outside the door on.

DUSTIN: He could just be really high.

STEVE: Is that a foot?

DUSTIN: No, it's a shoe.

MAX: Hey, guys?

The others walk over to Max and spot the boat shed.

INT. LIPTON BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

Torchlight shines through the windows and small holes as the group walks to the front door, shining their torches inside. Robin pushes the door open and peeks inside.

ROBIN: Hello? Is anyone home?

Robin walks inside, followed by the others. They shine their torches around as they look around, the boathouse creaking with every step.

STEVE: What a dump.

Steve catches sight of a boat suspended above the water, a tarp over the top. He clicks his torch off and puts it in his pocket, grabbing an oar from the wall and turning to the boat. After hyping himself up, he jabs the tarp.

DUSTIN: What are you doing?

Steve jabs the tarp a few times.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): What are you doing?

Steve jabs the tarp.

STEVE: He might be in here.

Steve jabs the tarp a few times.

DUSTIN: So take the tarp off.

STEVE: If you're so brave, you take the tarp off.

Steve continues to jab the tarp, moving along the boat. On the other side of the boat shed, Max spots a small table with food wrappers and empty bottles.

MAX: Hey, look over here.

Robin walks over and stands next to Max.

MAX (CONT'D): Someone was here.

ROBIN: Maybe he heard us. Got spooked and ran.

On the other side of the boat shed, Steve continues to jab the tarp.

DUSTIN: Don't worry, Steve will get him with his oar.

STEVE: I know you think you're being funny, Henderson, but considering the fact that everyone in this room has nearly died about a hundred times, personally, I don't find it funny in the slight-

Eddie suddenly jumps out from under the tarp, scaring the absolute shit out of everyone. Eddie grabs Steve and pushes him towards the wall.

DUSTIN: Whoa!

STEVE: Wait! Wait! Wait! Wait! Wait!

Eddie throws Steve against the wall, holding a broken bottle against his neck.

DUSTIN: Whoa, whoa, whoa, Eddie! Eddie! Stop! Eddie!

Eddie looks at Dustin, his face angry but his eyes filled with fear.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie! It's me. It's Dustin. This is Steve.

Eddie looks at Steve.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): He's not gonna hurt you, right, Steve?

Steve tries to nod his head with a point of glass poking his neck.

STEVE: Right. Yeah.

DUSTIN: Steve, why don't you drop the oar?

Steve holds his hand out and drops the oar, which falls in the opposite direction. The noise makes Eddie push the glass further against Steve's neck, which makes Steve groan and squeeze his eyes shut.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): He's cool. He's cool.

STEVE: I'm cool, man, I'm cool.

EDDIE: What are you doing here?

DUSTIN: We're looking for you.

ROBIN: We're here to help.

Eddie looks at Robin.

DUSTIN: Eddie, these are my friends. You know Robin, from band.

Robin imitates playing a trumpet on her torch.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): This is my friend Max. The one who never wants to play D&D.

Max gives a small wave.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Eddie. We're on your side. I swear on my mother. Right, guys?

MAX: Yes. Yes. We swear.

ROBIN: Yeah, on Dustin's mother.

STEVE: Yeah, Dustin's...Dustin's mother.

Eddie stares at Steve. Everyone waits in hellish anticipation to see whether Eddie will trust them. After a few moments, Eddie lets Steve go and walks away. Steve grunts as his knees buckle slightly.

STEVE (CONT'D): Jesus Christ...

Steve moves to the corner of the boat shed, touching his neck before sitting down. Eddie leans against the wall and slowly slides down, his hand shaking. Dustin slowly walks over to him and kneels in front of him.

DUSTIN: Eddie...we just want to talk.

Dustin slowly reaches out to take the bottle from Eddie's hand, but his touch makes him jerk it back.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Okay?

Dustin holds his hand out to the side, non-verbally telling the others not to get too close too quickly. Robin kneels down.

ROBIN: We want to know what happened.

Eddie shakes his head, sniffing.

EDDIE: You won't believe me.

MAX: Try us.

Eddie stares at Max.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – NIGHT

Nancy walks through the trailer park, looking for Fred.

NANCY: Fred! Fred!

Nancy spots two people leaning against the dome jungle gym and runs towards them.

NANCY (CONT'D): Excuse me. Hi. Excuse me, sorry. Have you seen my friend wandering around? Uh, nerdy, glasses, scar on his face?

MAN: No, sorry.

Nancy turns and walks away, looking around.

EXT. FOREST HILLS TRAILER PARK – NIGHT

Nancy quickly walks up to Daniels at the edge of the trailer park.

NANCY: Hi, officer? Officer?

DANIELS: What are you still doing here?

NANCY: I...my...my friend from the car earlier, I...I can't find him.

DANIELS: What do you mean you can't find him?

NANCY: He was there and then he was just gone and...did you maybe see him leave with somebody or...?

Daniels shakes his head.

DANIELS: I told you kids to go home. Jesus Christ.

Daniels turns away from Nancy and grabs his radio.

DANIELS (CONT'D): This is Glenn. We might have a situation here.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Fred runs through the woods, panting.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Fred comes across a road and stops in the middle of it, staring in horror at the burning wreck ahead of him.

INT. LIPTON BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

Dustin, Max, Robin, and Steve sit or stand in front of Eddie as he tells them what happened, his chin quivering. He avoids eye contact.

EDDIE: Her body just, like, lifted up into the air and, uh...and she just, like, hung there. In the air. And her bones...uh, she...

Eddie closes his eyes, whimpering slightly.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Her bones started to snap.

Flashback to #401. The Munson trailer. Chrissy hanging in the air with her back to the ceiling. Her bones snap.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Her eyes, man. It...it was like there was something, like, inside her head, pulling.

Flashback to #401. The Munson trailer. Chrissy hangs in the air with her back to the ceiling. Blood drips from her eyes before they're pulled into the back of her head. Eddie screams.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I...I didn't know what to do, so I...

Eddie's chin quivers.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I ran away. I left her there.

Eddie glances up and immediately looks away.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You all think I'm crazy, right?

DUSTIN: No. We don't think you're crazy.

EDDIE: No, don't bullshit me, man! I know how this sounds.

MAX: We're not bullshitting you.

ROBIN: We believe you.

Eddie exhales, shaking his head.

DUSTIN: Look, what I'm about to tell you might be a little...difficult to take.

EDDIE: Okay.

DUSTIN: You know how people say Hawkins is...cursed? They're not way off.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Fred slowly walks towards the burning wreck.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(O.S.): There's another world.

There's echoing screams.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(O.S.): A world hidden beneath Hawkins.

INT. LIPTON BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Sometimes it bleeds into ours.

EDDIE: Like ghosts and shit?

MAX: There are some things worse than ghosts.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

A boy shatters a front window and falls part way out, making Fred jump back with a gasp. The boy moans as he pulls himself from the car, crawling towards Fred with his hand outstretched.

BOY: Help me!

Fred backs away as the boy crawls towards him.

EXT. PIT – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Fred takes a step backwards and falls into a pit, yelling. He grunts when he lands on his back, his glasses flying off. He looks to his side to see a clothes skeleton, spiders crawling out of its crevices. Fred yells and sits up, feeling around for his glasses before putting them on. He stands up and feels the walls for a way out, but he's trapped.

FRED: No, no, no...

DUSTIN (O.S.): These monsters from this other world...

FRED: Help! Somebody!

DUSTIN (O.S.): We thought they were gone.

FRED: Nancy, please!

DUSTIN (O.S.): But they've come back before.

INT. LIPTON BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D): And that's why we needed to find you.

MAX: If they're back again, we need to know.

EXT. PIT – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Fred feels the walls for a way out.

VECNA: Fred.

Fred turns to see a tunnel leading away from the pit, with Vecna stalking towards him in it.

ROBIN (O.S.): That night...

INT. LIPTON BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

ROBIN (CONT'D): Did you see anything?

MAX: Dark particles, maybe?

Eddie shakes his head.

EXT. PIT – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Fred backs against the wall as much as he can as Vecna stalks towards him.

INT. LIPTON BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

DUSTIN: It would almost look like dust, swirling dust.

EDDIE: No, man, there was nothing you could see or, uh...or touch.

EXT. PIT – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna stalks towards Fred.

FRED: What do you want?

Vecna stops in front of Fred.

VECNA: I want you to join me.

Fred shakes his head.

FRED: No, no, no, no.

Vecna raises his hand, fingers outstretched. It hovers over Fred's face as he looks upwards, shaking. Vecna's eyes roll into the back of his head.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Fred stands completely still, his eyelids fluttering. He starts to rise in the air.

EDDIE (O.S.): You know, I tried to wake her, man.

INT. LIPTON BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

EDDIE (CONT'D): She couldn't move. It was like she...she was in a trance or something.

DUSTIN: Or under a spell.

EDDIE: A curse.

DUSTIN: Vecna's curse.

Flashback to #401. The drama room. Eddie puts the figurine of Vecna on the board.

EXT. PIT – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna pushes his hand over Fred's face, his claws digging into his skin.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Fred's bones snap.

EXT. PIT – FRED'S MINDSCAPE

Fred groans. Vecna digs his hand further into Fred's head.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Fred's eyes get pulled into the back of his head. His body drops to the ground in the middle of the road.

INT. LIPTON BOATHOUSE – NIGHT

STEVE: Who's Vecna?

DUSTIN: An undead creature of great power.

EDDIE: A spell caster.

DUSTIN: A dark wizard.

Eddie and Dustin stare at each other.

INT. CREEL HOUSE – ATTIC – UPSIDE DOWN

Vecna is suspended in the air from vines in his back. Vecna opens his eyes. The vines slowly lower him to the ground, and he kneels as they pull themselves out of his back. He stands up as they slither away from him. The camera pulls away from Vecna and out through the boarded up window, showing hordes of Demobats flying in the sky, shrieking. A Demobat flies over the camera with a screech.

Cut to black.

END EPISODE.